

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 14-23 with the following amended paragraph:

The establishment of an NF2- *in vitro* model is essential to elucidate the NF2 gene tumor 15 suppression function in Schwann cells and as the first step to test new therapeutic approaches. To date, no single cell line has been developed from NF2 tumor cells, and most studies were conducted either in yeast, mouse schwannoma cells or other non-Schwann human cells. There are three main reasons for this limited progress. First, human Schwann cells are difficult to obtain. Second, because of the lack of knowledge of Schwann cell growth factors, once the Schwann cells are obtained, they do not proliferate in culture. Third, there is the contamination of human fibroblast. Recently, we have developed a method for establishing short- term primary schwannoma cells in culture. These primary cultures can be enriched to greater than 99% pure and could be very useful for the study of genetic alterations and NF2 gene functions at the cellular and molecular level (Hung, G. et al. 1999 *Int J Oncology Oncogene* 14:409-15).

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 7-8 with the following amended paragraph:

The preferred cell line was deposited under the Budapest Treaty on July 11, 2002 with the American Type Culture Collection (10801 University Blvd., Manassas, VA) as ATCC #PTA-4544. This deposit was made under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure and the Regulations thereunder (Budapest Treaty). This assures maintenance of a viable culture of the deposit for 30 years from date of deposit. The deposit will be made available by ATCC under the terms of the Budapest Treaty, and subject to an agreement between Applicant and ATCC which assures permanent and unrestricted availability of the progeny of the culture of the deposit to the public upon issuance of the pertinent U.S. patent or upon laying open to the public of any U.S. or foreign patent application, whichever comes first, and assures availability of the progeny to one determined by the U.S. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to be entitled thereto according to 35 USC § 122 and the Commissioner's rules pursuant thereto (including 37 CFR § 1.14). Availability of the deposited strain is not to be construed as a license to practice the

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invention in contravention of the rights granted under the authority of any government in accordance with its patent laws.